

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7902B

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JARARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBERVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY BEIURT BY POUCH

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OPEC, ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON OPEC SECRETARIAT

LOCATION IN VIENNA

REF: VIENNA'S 1592 NOTAL

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1. DURING WEEKEND SOCIAL FUNCTION AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA MADE A FEW OBSERVATIONS TO ECON CONS REGARDING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO UAE, OMAN, QATAR, AND TUNISIA (REPORTED REFTTEL). ASKED WHETHER SUBJECT OF MAINTENANCE OF OPEC HEADQUARTERS IN VIENNA WOULD COME UP DURING TRIP, BIELKA SAID HE EXPECTED IT WOULD. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE HIS MATTER HAD BECOME SUCH AN ISSUE PARTICULARLY SINCE THE MAJORITY OF OPEC MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE IN FAVOR OF REMAINING IN VIENNA. BIELKA COMMENTED THAT HE WAS AWARE THERE WERE TWO COUNTRIES THAT WERE ANXIOUS TO MOVE AWAY FROM VIENNA (HE DID NOT MENTION THEM) AND THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JAKARTA.

2. BIELKA THEN PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT IRAN'S REACTION TO THE TERRORIST INCIDENT LAST DECEMBER AND IMPLIED AN EVIDENT COOLING OFF IN RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND IRAN BECAUSE OF THAT SITUATION. HIS REMARKS SUGGESTED THAT IRAN WAS ONE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES DESIRING TO MOVE FROM VIENNA (THE OTHER COUNTRY IS PRESUMABLY SAUDI ARABIA). BIELKA SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO VISIT IRAN SOMETIME IN SPRING TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE.

3. BIELKA SEEMED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE THE OPEC SECRETARIAT WOULD REMAIN IN VIENNA SINCE, AS HE PUT IT, WHILE MEMBER COUNTRIES MIGHT EVENTUALLY AGREE TO LEAVE VIENNA THEY WOULD FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION. BIELKA ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE OPEC SECRETARIAT WOULD SOON FIND NEW QUARTERS IN VIENNA (THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN SHOPPING AROUND FOR A NEW BUILDING FOR SOME TIME) AND GET OUT OF THEIR PRESENT LOCATION. THIS, BIELKA SAID, WOULD MAKE MATTERS A LOT EASIER FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING THE GOA.

4. COMMENT: RELOCATION TO A NEW BUILDING WITHIN VIENNA IS EVIDENTLY AWAITING OPEC MINISTERIAL DECISION. BUCHANAN
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